

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 095261

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 CIAE-00

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S/S:MR HOGANSON

----- 010270

R 200317Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, VE, US

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: RAILROAD PROJECT

1. AS OUTCOME TO A RECENT MEETING WITH PULLMAN OFFICIALS, THE DEPARTMENT AGREED TO SEEK INFORMATION ON SEVERAL QUESTIONS BEARING UPON THE FEASIBILITY OF PULLMAN-KELLOGG INCURRING SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS EXPENSE IN BIDDING ON THE NEAR \$1 BILLION EAST LINE VENEZUELAN RAILROAD PROJECT.

2. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS WERE:

ARE THERE LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN US-VENEZUELAN RELATIONS OR VENEZUELAN RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRY OF OTHER PRINCIPAL COMPETITORS FOR THIS PROJECT WHICH WILL BIAS THE SELECTION FOR OR AGAINST EITHER OF THE US CONSORTIA LIKELY TO BE BIDDING?

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PAGE 02 STATE 095261

WILL THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS OF APPROPRIATIONS
TO FINANCE THE PROJECT BE COMPLETE BY MID-MAY, WHEN
INVITATIONS TO BID MAY BE ISSUED?

IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THAT BARTER ARRANGEMENTS FOR VENE-
ZUELAN OIL OR IRON ORE MAY BE OFFERED BY THE JAPANESE OR
CANADIAN BIDDERS OR SOUGHT BY THE GOV IN FINANCING THE

PROJECT?

DOES THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS OR THE NATIONAL
RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION OR RAILROAD INSTITUTE HAVE A
FOREIGN CONSULTANT NOW EMPLOYED IN DEFINING TECHNICAL
ISSUES IN THE PRE-QUALIFICATION REVIEW OF CONSORTIUM
PROPOSALS? IF SO, WHO IS HE?

DOES THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PROJECT HAVE ANY
PLANS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH
OR SO?

3. ACTION: APPRECIATE EMBASSY CABLED RESPONSE. ROBINSON

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